

SENATE BILL 2851
By Womack

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to education, and to establish the Tennessee Youth Apprenticeship Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 11, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

49-11-___. There is herein created the Tennessee Youth Apprenticeship Program.

49-11-___.

49-11-___. The board of regents and the state board in cooperation with the department of education and the department of labor is authorized to provide comprehensive administrative and financial services to the Tennessee Youth Apprenticeship Program.

(a) The Tennessee Youth Apprenticeship Program (the "program") shall be established as a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Tennessee and shall provide an additional educational option for high school students and young adults to obtain classroom instruction and on-the-job training that prepares such students directly for career related employment or continued education.

(b) The purpose of the program is to assist the board of regents, the state board of education, and the department in providing a combination of academic learning and structured work-based learning at businesses in Tennessee to students enrolled in Tennessee educational institutions.

(c) The objectives of the program are as follows:

(1) To provide a sequential education and training program that enhances opportunities for Tennessee youth to become highly skilled and productive members of the work force;

(2) To provide a skilled and educated work force for businesses in the state to increase their competitiveness in global economy; and

(3) To enhance the economic future of the state and improve its productivity in a world economy by creating a skilled and educated work force.

(d) The department is authorized to receive and administer on behalf of the program any grants, fees, charges, appropriations and other funds from whatever source.

49-11-___. The program shall provide a sequence of combined school and work place education and training that has a specific industrial or occupational focus. Students may participate in the program for up to three (3) years and, while doing so, shall be enrolled in a state vocational institution or other publicly supported secondary or post-secondary school. The program shall offer a curriculum based on industry skill standards recommended by the Skills Standards Board established pursuant to Section 49-11-___. Participants who demonstrate that they have met these skill standards are entitled to a certificate of skill mastery that described the competencies achieved.

The program shall encourage applied academic and occupational coursework, paid work and educational experience, outcome-based assessment, structured work-base learning and enrollment in a post-secondary educational institution.

49-11-___. (a) The Skill Standards Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 26-A and referred to in this section as “the board” shall advise the director of the program on the industry skill standards associated with an industry or occupational group that must be mastered in order for a student to be awarded a certificate of skill mastery.

(b) Membership. The board consists of fourteen (14) members as follows:

- (1) Three (3) members representing business and industry;
- (2) Three (3) members representing organized labor;
- (3) Three (3) members representing education;
- (4) Two (2) student members who participate in the program;
- (5) Two (2) members from businesses that participate in the

program; and

(6) One (1) member representing the Tennessee Council for Vocational Education.

(c) Appointments. The Governor, the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one (1) member representing business and industry, one (1) member representing organized labor and one (1) member representing education. The Governor shall appoint two (2) members from businesses that participate in the program, two (2) student members who participate in the program from persons nominated by the director of the program and one (1) member representing the Tennessee Council for Vocational Technical Education.

(d) Officers and staff. The officers of the board shall consist of a chair and vice-chair, elected by the board from the board membership for a term of one year. Officers may be elected for one (1) additional term. The vice-chair

shall serve as the chair in the absence of the chair. The board shall be staffed by the board of regents, the state board of education and the department.

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